

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Capitol Building Put in First-Class Condition

WASHINGTON.—With outside walls and pillars thoroughly drenched and cleaned by engine hose, interiors painted and refurnished and surrounded by new paving, the capitol and the house and senate office buildings have been made spick and span, ready for winter occupants.



Work has been going on since early in the spring, after congress adjourned, for this was the first time in seven years that the national lawmakers had taken a recess sufficiently long to permit improvements upon a large scale to be attempted. Some of the old paving had been down as long as 30 years and was in disgraceful disrepair.

Elliott Woods, superintendent of the capitol, has supervised the outside work and the painting which has been done at an expense in excess of \$300,000, while the officers of the house and senate have attended to the interior furnishings.

The largest item of expense was incurred in resurfacing the streets and sidewalks about the capitol, which cost about \$150,000. The surface of the west terrace has been thoroughly waterproofed, at a cost of about \$25,000. As a result, the committee and storage rooms in the terrace are now available for occupancy as offices instead of as shower baths, as heretofore.

About \$50,000 has been expended on painting in the office buildings and the capitol, on jobs which have been crying for attention for years. One of the most notable improvements was replacing the worn brownstone steps of the east front of the capitol with South mountain granite at a cost of about \$11,000.

New carpets and office furniture have been supplied where needed in the capitol and marble work and tiling scrubbed and cleaned throughout.

Commerce Bureau Must Answer Many Questions

INFORMATION running from the tariffs on campaign buttons for South American presidents to railroad fares in Latin America, to say nothing of locating the markets for gas tips for American producers, is sought of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce every day. Every mail brings some inquiry for information which will be of use to the American producers in marketing their goods, and the bureau strives to produce the information in the shortest time, although some of the questions involve a great deal of research work. Many times it is necessary to send to the commercial agents in foreign countries, who have to go out and look for information sought by a particular firm. A steady stream of letters to the bureau brings questions about foreign tariff rates in various Central and South American countries, about railroad fares, economic conditions, markets for specific products and innumerable other subjects related to trade, especially the trade of the Latin republics to the south. American merchants are seeking in many ways to capture the attention of that section of the world on its "shopping tours."

An inquiry which involves the study of railroad fares for various points in practically all the South American countries means considerable research by the bureau, but it furnishes the information as promptly as possible. An other correspondent desires information about the varieties and quantities of fruit to be found among the products of South America and the particular locations of the varieties. In this instance also the bureau gives careful attention to the task of delving for the required facts.

Some manufacturers call for information which, as a rule, will have to be obtained from the agents of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce in the field. One firm asks about the market for gas tips for open-flame gas jets. Another would like to know what chance there is of selling antifriction bearings in South America.

The bureau has been asked to explain the triangular method of settling trade balances between South America and the United States by way of Europe and the amounts involved. Persons interested in foreign trade also take up other economic questions. In fact, variety characterizes each day's mail of the bureau, and South America is receiving special attention.

Hockey Girls on Ellipse Attract Big Crowds

THERE is quite a congregation of traffic, vehicular and pedestrian, on three sunny afternoons each week around the Ellipse south of the White House grounds. Autos are choked, horses pulled up violently, marathons halt their classic stride, and every eye is focused on a plot in the center of the big reservation.



It is not a regimental review of the high school boys in blue, nor yet an exciting baseball game, or even a dog fight that forms the cynosure for the surrounding throngs. It is something of far more interest. Eighteen young ladies, garbed in the costume that rarely gets outside of a gymnasium, are engaged in one of the most strenuous sports in the whole country, namely, field hockey. They are pupils from a girls' school, and are the first ones to take advantage of the new hockey field established by the office of public buildings and grounds.

The other afternoon, with the usual interested group of spectators on the horizon, an exciting game was staged between the freshman and sophomore classes. There are also teams from the junior and senior classes and the collegiate class. The players were too busy to talk, and the little gallery, consisting of teachers in the school and "aunts" were too interested. "Yes, we are all wild about it," one started to explain, and then immediately:

"Oh, get it, get it!"

There was no use trying to get any illumination in that quarter. Several of the girls wore shin guards, and dainty ankles were pretty badly bruised in some instances. No mollycoddle could play the game.

Colonel Harts, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, says that only one field will be maintained this year. It is hoped that the high schools will become interested in the sport, and that before long several teams from these institutions will stage contests on the Ellipse.

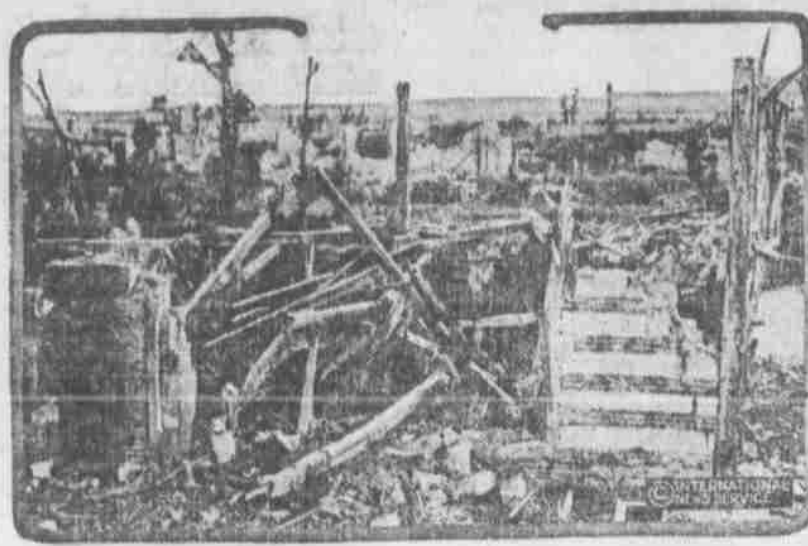
Personal Relics of G. Washington in Museum

AMONG the many interesting objects pertaining to the history of this country, there is probably nothing which touches the hearts of true Americans more quickly than the relics and mementos of "The Father of His Country." George Washington, many of which are displayed in the older building of the United States National museum in Washington. This collection consists of a variety of material gathered from numerous sources. While composed largely of articles of domestic and artistic interest owned by Washington at Mount Vernon, the collection also includes mementos of his life in the field during the war of the Revolution, and a number of other miscellaneous relics of greater or less importance. The most noteworthy objects are: Four pieces of plaster statuary and a face mask; several portraits and engravings; many pieces of furniture, including Washington's easy chair, tables, chairs, mirrors, bedstead, and footstool; numerous candelabra, lamps, and candlesticks; glass and chinaware and table furnishings; as well as many personal relics. These latter perhaps represent more to the visitor, since they were the individual property of this great statesman and warrior.

There are two interesting costumes worn by Washington; the first, an infant's robe of white brocade silk, lined with old rose china silk, used on the occasion of his christening, and the other a Continental army uniform worn when he resigned his commission as commander in chief of the Continental army, at Annapolis, Md., December 23, 1783.

Representing, as these "reminiscences do, two such separated periods of his life, they tend to remind the observer of the great things which were accomplished by Washington between the times these diversified costumes were worn. Other articles of wearing apparel comprise a waistcoat and what were known as small-clothes, or knee-breeches. Three tents, with poles, pegs, and pouches; a mess chest, spy glass, field glass, portable writing case, and shaving glass make up the field equipment used by Washington in his campaigns. Other relics, including an iron treasure chest, a sifter and case, a music case of mahogany, a Chinese tea chest, and a gold medal commemorating his death, besides a number of other miscellaneous articles, complete one of the most interesting collections of historical objects in this country.

SCENE OF BITTER FIGHTING



The village of Tahure, France, which, with the territory adjacent, has been the scene of tremendous fighting between the Germans and the French. As the photograph shows, the village is now but a mass of ruins.

SERB REAL SOLDIER

He Fights Well Even When Half Starving.

Has Many Characteristics of the Irish—Continuous Warfare Has Interfered Seriously With Ordinary Agricultural Operations.

London.—A writer in the Times gives interesting personal impressions of the Serb people, as seen by him in war time. He found many Irish characteristics among the people and declares that the Serb soldier is the ideal fighting man.

"The Serbians," he writes, "are a peasant people, strangers to luxury, and the Serbian army is a peasant army. At the best of times the Serbian peasant's food is of the simplest, consisting of bread, some potatoes, curried milk and rarely—very rarely, on occasional feast days and holidays—a little meat. Bread is the staff of life in Serbia in a very real sense. For four years now Serbia has been almost continuously at war; and it has been difficult for the womenfolk—the men all being in the ranks—to keep up the ordinary agricultural operations."

"Serbia has become poor to a degree which the most congested districts of Ireland in years of bad crops hardly understand; and the diet of the whole people, of the masses of country folk especially, has been more meager than ever. More than ever a meal has meant merely a chunk of bread, and coarse war bread, difficult for a foreigner to eat. There are those who believe that it has been bread which has caused most of the intestinal troubles from which British doctors and nurses have suffered in Serbia so severely this year; but the Serbians thrive on it."

"The Serbian soldier, then, has become inured to a life of extreme privation; and in the fighting of last winter it was his toughness and ability to stand hardship which more than anything else gave him advantage over the Austrians. Again and again I have heard from Serbian officers the same story, of how their men, having had nothing to eat for, perhaps, two days, in a country stripped of all eatables and mostly keen deep in mud, pushed on, utterly careless of whether there was any commissariat or not, and simply hunted the Austrians day and night without giving them a moment's rest. Only men of iron, to whom semistarvation had become almost the normal condition of their existence, could have done what the Serbians did then."

"The Serbian's laughter-loving disposition has remained unspoiled. The one discovery which every Briton who goes to Serbia soon takes for himself is that the Serb is absurdly like the Irishman. The two master words in the Serbian tongue today are 'nema,' which means 'No, there isn't any,' and 'dobra,' which means 'good.' 'Nema' is the result of the last four years of privation. 'There isn't any,' it is true of almost everything. The visitor grows accustomed to going down a street of shops and asking everywhere for some simple article, and everywhere meeting with the same reply, 'Nema.'"

"At the smallest excuse 'Dobra' follows. Everything is 'good.' You ask the soldier, wounded or ill, awaiting his turn to be admitted to the hospital how he is, and before you ask you know that the answer will be 'Dobra' and that it will be accompanied by a smile. You tell the unwounded man that the Germans are coming, outnumbering the Serbian armies by three to one, to wipe Serbia and the Serbians off the map, and he laughs a carefree laugh and his eyes twinkle as he tells you 'Dobra.'"

"There is also a third master word in the language, which is 'sutra,' and that, alas! means 'tomorrow,' that beautiful indefinite time when everything is going to be done that ought to be done today. That also is very Irish. But in the Serbian case it is chiefly the result of 400 years of Turkish rule, four centuries during which procrastination and indirection have been the guiding principles of all policies and all administrative acts."

"It is impossible to think of the Serb as man except as a soldier, and that is the chief weakness of Serbia's military position today. She has no reserves. Her entire fighting strength, almost her manhood strength, is at ready in the ranks. Only in Nish, in

BOY TRAMPS 10,000 MILES

Youth Completes Jaunt Around Country During Which He Visited Almost Every State.

Baltimore.—Locked up here recently was a slight, wiry boy of fifteen years, with keen blue eyes and a shock of red hair, who has just completed a swarming around the country that covered more than 10,000 miles and nearly every state. His name is Donald Burke and his home is Philadelphia.

COPPER THOUGHT IT "GOAT"

Mysterious Animal Found on Steps of Elks Club Turned Out to Be a Possum.

Natchez, Miss.—While patrolling his beat on Franklin street, Policeman Ed Gahan saw a mysterious animal on the steps of the Elks club here. The cop, thinking that the "goat" had escaped, executed a flanking and enveloping movement and captured the animal. Believing it was the official "goat," the officer had prepared for desperate resistance, but immediate surrender was made.

He found that he had captured a possum of enormous size. The possum was placed under arrest, taken to the station house and a charge of prowling entered against him. Not being able to explain his presence in the heart of the city, and especially at the Elks club, the possum was condemned to execution and fed into the clutches of the colored janitor of the city hall.

It is rumored that the British army authorities are now declining to enlist men of English birth whose fathers were not British subjects, natural-born or naturalized. It is very improbable that this rumor has any foundation, for a considerable number of men of all ranks in the British army are of foreign parentage, and one regiment, the Zion Mule corps, is composed entirely of foreign subjects. As a parallel there is the Foreign Legion in the French army.

Such a decision would have a very unfortunate effect on recruiting among Jews in England, four-fifths of whom are either of foreign birth or parentage. That no such regulation has been in force in the past is evidenced by the number of Jews of foreign parentage, German as well as other nationalities, who are in the British army.

So far as the Jewish middle class is concerned it is very exceptional for the sons or grandsons of Germans who are of military age not to be in the British army, where several have already gained distinction. These families are able to compare in their own experience the lot of the Jew in England with that of his coreligionist in this country. His loyalty to England is beyond doubt.

M. Louis Lucien Klotz, the minister of commerce in the new French cabinet, has held ministerial office on several previous occasions. Two years ago he was minister of the interior in the Barthou ministry, and in the three ministries which preceded that he held the portfolio of finance. During the past half century and more Jews have frequently held office in French cabinets. The names of Clemenceau, Poincaré, Goussiaux and Raynal will immediately spring to the memory of the student of modern French history.

The Italian cabinet also contains a Jewish member, Signor Barzilai, and in the foreign minister, Baron Sonnino, the son of a Jewish father and a Scottish mother. In the past Italy had a Jewish premier, a Jewish minister of war and two Jewish ministers of finance. England has had in recent years three Jewish cabinet ministers, none of whom is in the present cabinet, but all of them are among the advisers of the government.

IS RECORD BELL PULLER

Sexton of Catholic Church in Indiana Has Pulled a Rate of 755 Miles in 17 Years.

South Bend, Ind.—Seventeen years as sexton at St. Patrick's Catholic church in this city, pulling the rope on the great bell at the church more than 700 miles in that time, is the record which has just been completed by Charles S. Schubert.

He has rung the bell for practically 7,000 services. He has averaged one service a day through the year and three times on Sunday, making an annual total of 429 services.

In addition to this Schubert has rung the bell three times a day for Angelus. For each service he rings the bell twice. He averages ringing the bell six times on weekdays and nine on Sunday. Therefore, in a year, averaging 25 strokes to the pull for the 2,346 times he rings the bell annually, he would give the bell 58,000 strokes. Now, in each pull he jerks the rope four feet, making 234,600 feet annually, or 3,588,200 feet, or 755½ miles in 17 years.

Canary Bird in Jail.

Bellefontaine, Ohio.—A gypsiesman has been provided in the Logan county jail for the pleasure of the prisoners. Sheriff George Smith, feeling that the men needed some other form of recreation than reading, has put in the equipment at his own expense. Mrs. Smith, the sheriff's wife, has placed two canary birds in the jail to help divert the minds of the prisoners.

Jurks drink coffee while it is boiling, and swallow the grounds with the milk.

MANY JEWS IN WAR

Half a Million Fighting in Ranks of Various Nations.

Most of Them Are Under Czar, but Others Prove Loyalty to Respective Lands—Win High Rank and Decorations.

London.—More than half a million soldiers of the Jewish faith are now fighting in the ranks of the various belligerent nations. The majority of these are of course serving in the armies of the czar, in which they have earned recognition for exceptional bravery and good service.

Many have been decorated with military orders; some have even gained the much coveted Cross of St. George of the First Class, the equivalent of the Victoria Cross. From the other belligerent countries come similar records. Judging from the awards for gallantry which Jewish soldiers are receiving from the rulers of all lands, Jews are doing their duty to the states of which they are citizens.

One of the most recent acts of bravery performed by Jewish soldiers that has come under notice is that of M. Georges Dreyfus of the French army, who, having been educated in England, may be considered partly English in acknowledgment of his exceptional integrity and courage he was promoted to the battlefield to command the much coveted Croix de Guerre, and has been recommended to the British government for the award of the D. S. O.

Another French-Jewish soldier to gain distinction on the battlefield is Capt. Henri Franck. He was killed in action. In the army order he was referred to as "an officer of the greatest bravery who set an example of coolness and tenacity. He was mortally wounded while organizing with an absolute contempt of danger the defense of a mill." One of the Franco-Jewish generals, General Bernheim, who was attached to the Belgian army, has been wounded.

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IN THE CITIES



He Learned Operations of the Kangaroo Court

MILWAUKEE.—He wanted to find out how the kangaroo court worked, he said. He was a neat and enterprising student at Marquette Law school in search of experience. He called on Sheriff Meima and Joseph Zuber, jailer, and they explained their duties to him. His name is Joseph Krueger.

"I'd like to have the experience of being locked up and tried just like a prisoner," he told the sheriff. He was thrust into tier B. Covert glances were directed at him by the other prisoners. Very evidently they didn't like him.

"He's a detective," someone said. "Wants to get evidence on some of us."

Arraign the prisoner," shouted the judge of the "kangaroo court," after a conference with the sheriff, district attorney and bailiffs.

"You're charged with breaking into tier B without the consent of the inmates," said the judge. "Guilty or not guilty?"

"Not guilty," said Krueger.

"Did he have your consent, or yours, or yours?" went on the judge, addressing the other prisoners.

"No."

"Very evidently you're guilty," the judge solemnly said. "Fined 50 cents and a bath."

The water was just right when Krueger stepped under the shower. Suddenly it became cold and as he shivered and shook the prisoners laughed.

"The detective's got cold feet," they cried.

At supper time Krueger took the bread and molasses and coffee just like the others. Afterward he explained, and then they made give a speech.

New York Has Lots of Sharks—in Its Waters

NEW YORK.—In the past summer, sharks have been unusually abundant in the vicinity of New York harbor, and among them have been wanderers from other parts of the ocean which seldom appear here. Except, however, the sand shark, with narrow, white, catlike teeth, which ordinarily grows only to a length of four feet, the only large shark to be found in large numbers near New York is the Milberts Ground shark. Every year many females of this species, six or seven feet long, enter the bays of Long Island to give birth to their young in the untroubled inshore waters. Sometimes one may see the back fin of one of these sharks following the edge of some shoal where she is searching for flat fish and other small fishes on which these sharks feed.

In June a 14-foot "basking" or "bone shark" was taken at Westhampton beach, and Doctor Hussakof, the curator of the department of ichthyology of the American Museum of Natural History, made a special trip to examine the rare monster. The report of his observations gives a good idea of this largest of fishes.

The basking shark is a sluggish fish, reaching a length of nearly forty feet. Its large mouth is not used in preying on other fishes, but in gulping barrels of sea water from which the small animals are strained by the highly developed gill rakers, a habit resembling that of the whalebone whales; indeed, the gill rakers of the basking shark resemble whalebone, hence the name "bone shark," by which it is sometimes known.

Again, in September a large tiger shark was captured off Islip, and its head was later sent to the museum by Capt. John C. Dorse, the tiger shark attains a length of twenty or thirty feet, and is a wanderer from southern waters, where it is greatly feared by the natives, who care very little for ordinary ground sharks. The teeth of this species are unlike those of any other of the sharks—broad, with oblique points, and a wavy, cutting edge.

Nose Gems the Latest Fad in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO.—If you see a handsomely gowned woman walking down the street with a pair of diamonds sparkling just above where her moustache would be if she were a man, do not be surprised. It's the latest fad.

Nose gems as desirable ornaments have just been introduced into this country. It is the latest effort of man—or woman—to achieve good looks.

The fad came from northwestern India. That is the country, you know, where people starve themselves to make it rain or to change their luck. Mrs. Mander Kala Bagal brought it from that country to San Francisco, and they do say that some San Franciscans are wearing the nose diamond this very minute.

A hole bored through the nose, either above or below the nostrils, and a little gold ball, with a diamond or other jewel at each end, is slipped through, and there you are. When worn with enamel it's said to be very stunning. Mrs. Bagal maintains that the proper place to wear it is above the nostrils, just under the bridge.

Not every nose, however, is built to wear a gem. Ladies with blue noses, above all, should not wear a jewel, especially a ruby, for that would accentuate what she doesn't want looked at; and gentlemen with red noses need no further glistening jewel. Hay feverites, too, would be inconvenienced by a diamond or amethyst or other gem on their nose. And a victim of a hold-up would be in grave danger of parting with some of his prospects if he had it incriminated with jewels and the highwaymen were in a hurry.

After all, it's nothing new to the world. The dusky native beauties of the Skeezut Islands, as well as the Zanzibar cannibal belles, have worn rings in their noses ever since they were discovered.

Spook Excites Navy Men at New London Station

NEW LONDON, CONN.—At the local naval station, recently made a base for submarines, the gallant band of navy men have been pestered lately with an apparition, and a newspaper man came to investigate the weird tales.

Many of the dark whispers had said: "See Shea at the barracks; he knows."

So to the barracks, an old, three-story structure, long disused, but now being fitted up for the crews of the submarines, went the correspondent, escorted by the officer of the day. Out of the anteroom Shea appeared, a robust and muscular young petty officer.

"Have you heard of a ghost around these barracks?" the correspondent asked.

"I've seen it," said Shea; "seen it three nights. And, what's more, I saw it three or four times in and three or four places every one of these nights!"

"Yes, sir," Shea went on, "I've walked up against The Thing three times. Afraid of it? Not much!"

It was Friday night—evil time—that he felt something was wrong somewhere in the barracks, deserted by all save himself, according to Shea. For an hour or two he lay awake, listening intently, but could hear no sound. Then he decided to get up and make a round of the building.

So he got up and started down a corridor. Near the foot of a stairway he saw a gray form standing.

"What are you doing here?" he demanded. There was no reply. Shea started for the gray shape, but just before reaching it, it vanished.

The bewildered Shea turned around and there it was just behind him. He was startled by the swift and noiseless change in position, but not thinking of ghosts, only of a marauder, he started to grapple with the shape, when it vanished again. The baffled watchman wheeled around to see "The Thing" at his rear side, and as he reached a powerful arm to clutch it, it was gone.

